

1           1.    A method comprising:  
 2                receiving a wireless signal from a portable  
 3 device;  
 4                attempting to authenticate the wireless signal;  
 5 and  
 6                if the signal is not authenticated, disabling an  
 7 operation of the device.

1           2.    The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a  
 2 wireless signal from a portable device includes receiving a  
 3 short-range wireless signal.

1           3.    The method of claim 2 wherein receiving a  
 2 wireless signal includes receiving a Bluetooth protocol  
 3 signal.

1           4.    The method of claim 1 wherein preventing  
 2 operation of the device includes preventing access to a  
 3 supply of power.

1           5.    The method of claim 1 including receiving a  
 2 wireless signal at a key fob.

1           6.    The method of claim 1 including receiving a  
 2 wireless signal at a concealed location.

1           7.    The method of claim 1 including preventing  
2   operation of the device if the signal is not authenticated.

1           8.    The method of claim 1 including adversely  
2   affecting the performance of the device if the signal is  
3   not authenticated.

1           9.    The method of claim 1 including limiting access  
2   to storage if the signal is not authenticated.

1           10.   The method of claim 1 including preventing the  
2   device from booting if the signal is not authenticated.

1           11.   A wireless system comprising:  
2                a processor;  
3                a wireless transceiver; and  
4                a storage coupled to said processor, said storage  
5   storing instructions that enable the processor to  
6   authenticate a received wireless signals, and, if the  
7   signal is not authenticated, disable an operation of the  
8   device.

1           12.   The system of claim 11 wherein said transceiver  
2   receives a short-range wireless signal.

1        13. The system of claim 12 wherein said transceiver  
2 is a Bluetooth protocol transceiver.

1        14. The system of claim 11 wherein said processor  
2 prevents operation of the device by preventing access to a  
3 supply of power.

1        15. The system of claim 11 wherein said system is in  
2 the form of a key fob.

1        16. The system of claim 11 wherein said system  
2 prevents operation of the device if the signal is not  
3 authenticated.

1        17. The system of claim 11 wherein said system  
2 adversely affects the performance of the device if the  
3 signal is not authenticated.

1        18. The system of claim 11 wherein said system limits  
2 access to storage if the signal is not authenticated.

1        19. The system of claim 11 wherein said system  
2 prevents the device from booting if the signal is not  
3 authenticated.

1        20. An article comprising a medium storing  
 2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:  
 3            receive a wireless signal from a portable device;  
 4            attempt to authenticate the wireless signal; and  
 5            disable an operation of the device if the signal  
 6 is not authenticated.

1        21. The article of claim 20 further storing  
 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
 3 receive a short-range wireless signal.

1        22. The article of claim 21 further storing  
 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
 3 receive a Bluetooth protocol signal.

1        23. The article of claim 20 further storing  
 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
 3 prevent access to a supply of power.

1        24. The article of claim 20 further storing  
 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
 3 receive a wireless signal at a key fob.

1        25. The article of claim 20 further storing  
 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
 3 receive a wireless signal at a concealed location.

1        26. An article of claim 20 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
3 prevent operation of the device if the signal is not  
4 authenticated.

1        27. An article of claim 20 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
3 adversely affect the performance of the device if the  
4 signal is not authenticated.

1        28. An article of claim 20 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
3 limit access to storage if the signal is not authenticated.

1        29. An article of claim 20 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
3 prevent the device from booting if the signal is not  
4 authenticated.